



Northern Great Plains Network

Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

March 2003



I&M Program Charter: The Charter has been distributed to all Superintendents for review and signature. As soon as we have all signatures it will be forwarded to WASO so we can receive our \$150k of Vital Signs (i.e., monitoring) startup funds.

I&M Program Personnel: The Data Manager position is being reviewed and processed in Omaha. Hopefully it will go out soon. When all three Superintendents on the Board are able to get together we will make a decision on hiring a Biological Technician.

Data Entry: Kary Snyder and Linda Williams of Badlands NP continue to enter data into NPSpecies. If you have any datasets or publications that you think should be entered, but haven't been, please contact me or contact them directly. Kary and Linda will also be conducting other activities such as scanning slides and original hard copy documents into digital format (the hard copy documents will be scanned with optical character recognition so they will be searchable), so let me know if you have any needs there.

Development of Monitoring Plan: I am exploring the possibility of having our monitoring plan developed in whole or in part by a university. I have sent out emails to all major institutions in the Northern Great Plains soliciting interest. I have received positive feedback. Therefore, I have sent out a Request-for-Proposals to interested parties with a April 30 due date. If anybody wants to serve on a review panel please contact me.

Available Vital Signs Funds: Several weeks back I sent out an email soliciting ideas on how we could spend this fiscal year's monitoring startup money. I received several good ideas, but nothing that seemed like a perfect fit for the funds. My hope at this time is that I can find a university to develop the monitoring plan which would allow me to obligate that balance of this year's monitoring money. If that doesn't work we will need to revisit potential field projects or other expenditures.

Mammal Camera Stations: Camera stations for purposes of documenting mid-size carnivores and omnivores are currently deployed at Scotts Bluff NM and Fort Laramie NHS. Within a few weeks I'll move them to a new park.